



# Rockville Reports

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## Rockville to Celebrate Lunar New Year on Feb. 16

*Celebration to Feature Dancers, Vocalists, Martial Artists and More*

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, crafts and cultural displays at the city's Lunar New Year celebration, from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force. Multicultural performances will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and include dance, vocal, drum and martial arts performances by the Cambodian Buddhist Society, DC Beauty of Beijing Opera, Diana Dance Arts of Washington, Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe, Golden

Universe Dance Studio, Lihui Zhang Vocal Studio, Matsunaga Elementary Korean Drums, US Chinese Wushu Institute, and Yong Han Lion Dance Troupe.

In its 11th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The celebration will mark the year 4717, the Year of the Pig on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.



**Rockville's Lunar New Year celebration will feature dance, vocal, drum and martial arts performances.**

Interested in participating by providing a Lunar New Year-themed activity or craft? Contact Amanda Knox at [aknox@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:aknox@rockvillemd.gov) for

more information.

Find additional details, as they become available, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear). ❖

## Rockville's Mayor and Council Launch Search for Candidate to Fill Vacancy

Rockville's Mayor and Council announced recently that applications are now being accepted to fill a vacant seat on the city's council.

Two dates have been scheduled for candidate interviews by the Mayor and Council: Saturday, March 2; and Tuesday, March 5. The interviews will be conducted in the Mayor and Council chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

Candidates are required to submit a narrative of their relevant experience and background, a statement of their priorities and vision for the city, and a financial disclosure statement. All application materials received by the city, with the exception of the financial disclosure statements, will be publicly posted to the city's website. Candidates are limited to no more than 1,000 words on the narrative of their relevant experi-

ence and background and statement of their priorities and vision for the city.

The interviews will be held in open session, televised on channel 11, and livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).

Video of the interviews will be available the next day at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoon](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoon) demand.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22. See [www.rockvillemd.gov/council](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/council) vacancy for submission details.

The vacancy was created following the election of Julie Palakovich Carr to the Maryland House of Delegates to represent District 17, which includes Rockville. Palakovich Carr resigned on Jan. 8. The candidate selected will serve the remainder of that term. The next Mayor and Council election for all five seats on the body will be held Nov. 5. ❖

## Rockville Offers Assistance to Struggling Federal Workers Impacted by Shutdown

*Delayed Payment Available on Some City Bills*

The federal government shutdown has caused hardship for some Rockville residents who have been furloughed, and the city is here to help.

Struggling federal employees and contractors could be eligible for delayed payment, with no penalties, on certain city services, such as summer camp registration, preschool and before- and after-school care, water bills and animal registration fees.

Other helpful services are available through the city and local nonprofits:

Residents seeking delayed payments can contact the relevant city department for more information, and must provide proof of Rockville residency and federal employment, or of being a federal contractor (for example, with a federal employee/contractor ID badge or employer's letter).

- **Utility Billing:** Call 240-314-8420 or email [utilitybilling@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@rockvillemd.gov).
- **Recreation and Parks Child Care and Summer Camps:** Call 240-314-8620 or email [registration@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:registration@rockvillemd.gov). (Applicants for summer camps must register in person at City Hall or other facilities.)
- **Animal Registration:** Call 240-314-8937 or email [animalcontrol@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@rockvillemd.gov).

### Rockville's Financial Assistance Program Can Help in an Emergency

Help with a financial crisis may be available through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program for Rockville residents facing eviction or utility shut-off, or to cover prescription costs. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

For more information on REAP, including eligibility requirements, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/reap](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/reap).

### Support with Food is Available

Rockville-based nonprofits Manna Food Center and Nourish Now can help federal workers who need food. To receive help, or to make a donation, find them at [www.mannafood.org](http://www.mannafood.org) and [nourishnow.org](http://nourishnow.org).

Consider donating non-perishable food items at the following city collection points: City Hall (111 Maryland Ave.); Thomas Farm Community Center (700 Falls Grove Drive); Lincoln Park Community Center (357 Frederick Ave.); Twinbrook Community Recreation Center (12920 Twinbrook Parkway); the

*continued on pg. 7...*

## City Hall and Some City Facilities to Close for Presidents Day

City Hall will be closed and recycling and trash will not be collected on Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of Presidents Day. Several city facilities will operate on their usual schedules.

Recycling and trash collections will occur one day later throughout the week. For more information, call 240-314-8568 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash).

On Monday, Feb. 18:

- Glenview Mansion is closed for construction of a new Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible parking lot. Glenview offices are receiving telephone calls and emails.
  - Croydon Creek Nature Center is always closed Mondays.
  - The Rockville Senior Center and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be closed. Tickets are always available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre).
  - Lincoln Park, Twinbrook and Thomas Farm community centers and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open regular hours. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) for schedules.
- Parking will be free at city-owned meters.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). ❖

### Rockville Launches New, Weekly Emailed Newsletter

Now you can find more news, more often with the new "Rockville Reports" weekly email newsletter.

The newsletter features timely news delivered to subscribers at noon on Sundays, updating readers about what's

going on in their city government over the next seven days.

Sign up for the new weekly email: Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters) and check the box next to "Rockville Reports: City News." ❖

### In This Issue...

- 2 Sign Ordinance Revisions.
- 3 Swim Center Lobby and Locker Room Renovations.
- 5 Energy Rebates.
- 6 Valentine's Events.

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
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Rockville, Maryland  
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## Say 'Yes, Please!' for Free Trees This Spring

The City of Rockville plans to mark Earth Month in April by giving away 300 trees to celebrate its 30th consecutive year designated as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The "300 for the 30th" giveaway will be from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

Rockville homeowners, homeowners associations and non-profits will be able to choose up to two free trees, from among a selection of large shade trees and small flowering trees. City staff will provide tree-planting demonstrations and advice for caring for trees, and the city will hold a ceremony celebrating Arbor Day and three decades as a Tree City USA.

For more information and to sign up to receive a free tree, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/freetree](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/freetree).



## Rockville to Develop Deer-Management Pilot Program

In an effort to mitigate the increasing impact of a growing white-tailed deer population on the community, Rockville will spend the next year and a half developing a deer-culling pilot program for fall 2020.

The Mayor and Council directed staff to develop the pilot program at their Jan. 7 meeting. Public safety issues that stem from the increasing deer population include a growth in the number of vehicle accidents, property damage and potential for Lyme disease.

A plan for the pilot will be drafted during spring and summer 2019, followed by public review and input in the fall. The plan would outline methods, locations, times, safety zones, handling and transport, record keeping, and cost estimates, among other details. The plan would complement ongoing measures to manage deer, such as data collection, education, use of repellents and fencing.

From 2008-2017, according to the Rockville City Police Department, 1,400 deer-vehicle collisions were reported, most often during the height of the deer breeding season in October and November. A survey of six Rockville parks showed an average of 130-160 deer per square mile.

For more information on Rockville's urban wildlife management program, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/urbanwildlife](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/urbanwildlife).

## Mayor and Council Seek Comments on Sign Ordinance Revisions

The city will hold two forums in early February to brief business owners and residents on proposed revisions to how Rockville regulates commercial signs.

Input is invited from Rockville's residents and business owners. The meetings will be held 9-11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 4 and 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, in the Mayor and Council chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the proposed revisions is to allow for more flexible designs.

The original sign code was enacted to mini-

mize visual clutter along Rockville Pike. The proposed revisions are intended to respond to modern signage needs, while maintaining an aesthetic view for residents and visitors to the city.

Under city code, all temporary or permanent commercial signs require a sign permit, unless specifically exempted.

For more information about signage in the city and the application process, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) and search "TXT2019-00250." ❖



## National Golf Foundation to Deliver Report on RedGate Golf Course

Representatives from the National Golf Foundation will present a report on RedGate Golf Course at the Monday, Feb. 25 meeting of the Mayor and Council.

The 18-hole, city-owned RedGate Golf Course closed Dec. 31, following an announcement by operator Billy Casper Golf that it would end its leasing relationship with the City of Rockville by the end of the calendar year. The NGF report will initiate a discussion by the Mayor and Council on RedGate's future.

The city requested from NGF a strategic review of the golf course, clubhouse

and driving range operation, an evaluation of the long-term potential of the facility, and recommendations for how to enhance economic performance. The report will include an analysis of the physical and economic condition of the facility, and the market environment in which it operates.

Billy Casper Golf had leased and managed RedGate, at 14500 Avery Road, since signing on in 2011. The facility is expected to remain closed until the Mayor and Council can review their options and determine next steps. ❖



## Register for a Garden Plot and Get Growing

Join more than 100 active fellow gardeners to test your green thumb. Make friends, keep active and reap the benefits of growing your own fresh vegetables.

The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, approximately 25-by-25 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park for growing food and other plants.

The cost is \$80 per plot for nonresidents; Rockville residents pay \$55 per plot. Registration for the garden plot program is now open. The season runs April 1-Nov. 11.

The city provides ac-

cess to water and mulch; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.



Registration forms and an information packet can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots). Call the Rockville Civic Center's main office number, 240-314-8660, for more information. ❖

## Permeable Pavers: Remove, Replace and Earn RainScape Rebates

Rockville's RainScape Rebates program now offers cash rebates for removing pavement and replacing it with permeable pavers.

Eligible single-family homeowners and non-profits, including religious institutions, private schools, and homeowners' associations, can receive rebates of up to \$2,500 for replacing pavement with permeable pavers. The program offers \$1,200, or \$4 per square foot up to the \$2,500 maximum, whichever is greater. Owners must replace a minimum of 100 square feet.

Replacing pavement with permeable pavers improves aesthetics, reduces stormwater runoff, filters pollutants from runoff and

reduces the need for salt and de-icers in winter.

The RainScapes Rebates program also offers cash for landscaping with native plants and trees, installing rain barrels, replacing pavement with plants, and other projects that help green your backyard and reduce pollution. Applicants can receive up to \$4,800 for completing a variety of projects. Applicants must retain and submit itemized receipts and/or final invoices for all project costs. The rebate amount cannot exceed documented costs.

Learn more and apply at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes). For more information, contact rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8877. ❖

## Connect with us on Social Media.



**Rockville 11**  
is in HD

**The Municipal Broadcast Network is now in HD.**  
Learn more at [www.connectmontgomery.com](http://www.connectmontgomery.com).  
Watch online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).



**AIR MAIL ...** Last month, we shared that the Sugarloaf Mountain mural at the city's police station is featured on a Forever Stamp, and mentioned that the city's Fitzgerald Theatre once hosted a second-day issue of a stamp honoring the theater's namesake. Alert reader Maizie Rocke emailed about another stamp with a Rockville connection: A 2004 "Cloudscapes" stamp included a photo taken from King Farm by former resident H. Michael Mogil. See it at <http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2004/html/pb22137/kit-text1a.html>.





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**Meetings: Monday, Feb. 4 and 25 at 7 p.m.**  
Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Virginia D. Onley on Feb. 4.

### Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov).

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## City Issues Small Cell Antenna Guidelines

*Mayor and Council Adopt Fees for Installations in City Rights of Way*

Guidelines and fees issued by the city in January outline requirements for wireless carriers.

A Federal Communications Commission order that went into effect Jan. 14 pre-empts many aspects of the city's ability to regulate the installation of the small antennas used in the wireless network. The order requires local governments to allow the antennas in public rights of way; to act on applications to install antennas within 60 or 90 days, depending on the type of installation; and to publish aesthetic standards for the installation. It also regulates the fees that local governments can charge.

The Mayor and Council adopted fees for the small cell

installations within the city's rights of way during their Jan. 7 meeting. To view the fee schedule, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) and search "Public Works Development Fees."

Small cell antennas seek to create a next-generation 5G network that delivers faster internet and increases cell phone service coverage. They can be a maximum of 3 cubic feet, with up to 28 cubic feet of other equipment associated with them. They are intended to provide additional coverage in areas with a high volume of cell traffic, or to fill in areas with marginal coverage.

To view a staff presentation about the FCC requirements, visit the Jan. 7 meeting

listing at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter) and select the television icon. To find the guidelines, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/286](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/286).

The city considered a zoning text amendment to regulate the antennas but put the measure on hold pending legislation debated last fall by the Montgomery County Council. On Oct. 30, the County Council president canceled a vote on the legislation. In developing Rockville's guidelines, city staff reviewed the FCC order, considered how other jurisdictions reacted and consulted with telecommunications experts. ❄️

## Bid Awarded for Swim and Fitness Center Lobby and Locker Room Renovations

The Mayor and Council have unanimously selected City Construction LLC of Washington, D.C., to modernize and expand the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's locker room and lobby.

Construction, which would affect about 7,000 square feet at the center, is tentatively expected to begin in late winter 2019 and is projected to last about 12 months.

Key elements of the project include a complete renovation and expansion of the locker room and lobby; modernizing infrastructure and amenities; improving Americans with Disabilities Act compli-

ance; and reconfiguring the lobby. The indoor pool's locker rooms were constructed in 1968 when the center had only one swimming pool. The swim and fitness center now has two indoor and three outdoor pools, a whirlpool and fitness and exercise room, and is used by more than 300,000 people each year.

An open house in June 2017 allowed attendees to see a presentation of the conceptual design, review highlights of facility areas, talk to city staff and the design team, and provide feedback.

To sign up for emailed updates on the project's progress,



visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenteralerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenteralerts). Renovations updates will also be available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfcrenovations](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfcrenovations).

Questions about the project can be directed to the swim and fitness center's management team at [swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8750.

Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is a full-service aquatic, fitness and recreation facility located at 355 Martins Lane. ❄️

## Mayor and Council Thank 2018 Holiday Drive Participants

Contributions from more than 190 individuals and community organization generated \$70,000 worth of food, cash, toys and gift cards for the 2018 Rockville Holiday Drive.

Those generous donations — and hard work of volunteers — allowed Rockville to:

- Distribute Thanksgiving food baskets and grocery store gift cards to more than 500 Rockville households.
- Treat more than 100 Rockville seniors to a Thanksgiving dinner.
- Provide 309 teens with a gift card to a local retailer.
- Give 287 seniors and house-

holds without children a gift card to a local grocery store.

- Operate the city's annual toy shop, providing over 1,800 toys, books and games to more than 450 children under age 12.
- Match 55 Rockville families — a total of 238 individuals — with sponsors who provided gifts, tailored to each family's specific needs, through the family sponsorship program.

Forty-five donors and partners were awarded certificates by the Mayor and Council, at their Jan. 28 meeting, for helping the 2018 Holiday Drive.

Nine organizations were recognized with plaques as distinguished donors: Bar-T, Emmes, Family Healthcare, White Flint Children's House, Faith United Methodist Church, Institutional Shareholder Services, Sanberger Inc., Shulman Rogers, and Westat.

Partner organizations that received plaques were: Montrose Baptist Church, Richard Montgomery High School, Robert Frost Middle School, Rockville High School, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and St. Mary's School. ❄️



**STAY INFORMED:** The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil). Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

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- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Learn more below and find other ways to give of your time and talents at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

### Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **Feb. 6** Asian Pacific American Task Force 7:30 p.m.
  - **Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28** Development Review Committee 9 a.m.
  - **Feb. 7** Environment Commission 7 p.m.
  - **Feb. 12** Human Services Advisory Commission 6:30 p.m.
  - **Feb. 13** Cultural Arts Commission 7 p.m.
  - **Feb. 13, 27** Planning Commission 7 p.m.
  - **Feb. 19** Rockville Seniors, Inc. 2 p.m., Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.
  - **Feb. 20** Rockville Sister City Corporation 7 p.m.
  - **Feb. 21** Historic District Commission 7:30 p.m.
  - **Feb. 27** Human Rights Commission 7:30 p.m.
  - **Feb. 28** Recreation and Park Advisory Board 7 p.m., Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road.
- \*Televised on Rockville 11.

### Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1 alt.)
- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Compensation Comm. (2)
- Historic District Commission (3 reg./1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (1)
- Human Services Advisory Board (1)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (4)
- Sign Review Board (1)

For more, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) or call 240-314-8280.



**Winter is here! And snow!**

Get an **Alert Rockville** account at [www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).

Be even more in-the-know when it snows, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather).



## City's Financial Assistance Program Can Help in an Emergency

Need financial help? Facing eviction? Utilities about to be shut off? Need help paying for prescription medication?

Emergency financial assistance is available to eligible Rockville residents facing a financial crisis through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program.

REAP assistance may be available for funeral expenses, medical expenses and payment for other basic needs. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

For more information on REAP, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/reap](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/reap).

## County to Provide Free Tax Preparation Appointments

Montgomery County is hosting free tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for low- to moderate-income families that earned \$55,000 or less in 2018.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, provides IRS-certified volunteers from nonprofit and public agencies who can help low- to moderate-income families maximize their tax refunds and credits, including the Earned-Income Tax Credit, and e-file their federal and state tax forms.

Last year, the VITA program served 1,936 individuals and families, helping these households receive almost \$5 million in tax refunds, including \$1.3 million in Earned-Income Tax Credit. Seventy-seven volunteers gave more than 2,100 hours to help taxpayers prepare returns, as well as providing interpretation services and serving in other roles.

Appointments in Rockville are available from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Wednesdays, until April 15, at the Community Action Agency, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 320. The program is for Montgomery County residents and by appointment only, and no walk-ins are allowed.

Schedule an appointment by calling 240-777-1123. (TTY users, call 711) or at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback).

To find more information, including a list of additional locations throughout Montgomery County, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp) or email [VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov).



## Save the Date for Hometown Holidays

The Hometown Holidays Music Fest returns to Rockville Town Center this Memorial Day weekend. The 31st annual free festival will feature four stages of entertainment, the Taste of Rockville and activities for kids, from noon-8 p.m. Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26.

The city's 75th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 27, in Town Center. Applications to participate in the parade will be available beginning Monday, Feb. 4 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH).

The city is seeking speakers for the Memorial Day ceremony. Rockville and Montgomery County residents who have retired from, or currently serve in, the United States military are eligible to take part in the ceremony. Volunteer speakers must be comfortable speaking in public and must prepare a five- to seven-minute speech about their experiences in the armed forces, including what it means to serve and to honor those who have served.

Contact Amanda Knox at [aknox@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:aknox@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8604 to learn more.

Find more details, as they are announced, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH) and "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook.



Caitlyn Couch, Rockville's 2018 Mayor for a Day, in City Hall.

## Students Have a Chance to be Mayor for a Day in May

### Mayor Newton to Visit Rockville Fourth Graders

Rockville fourth graders once again have a chance at serving as the city's Mayor for a Day this spring by taking part in the statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

The theme of this year's contest, organized by the Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Mayors Association, is "Together We Can." Students are asked to write an essay, no longer than 275 words, that would describe how, if they were mayor, they would get the community and fellow officials to work better together.

One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout the state. Winners, their parents, and their teachers will receive \$100 cash and will be recognized during an awards ceremony in Annapolis, where they will cruise on the Harbor Queen. Essays must be received by mail by Saturday, March 30.

The Mayor and Council consider the contest to be a

wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to take part.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton welcomes the opportunity to speak with students about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is like to be mayor of Rockville. Teachers or school administrators may email [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) to arrange for the mayor to visit their school, though a mayoral visit is not required for students to participate.

In addition to the winners chosen by MML and MMA, the mayor will select a student attending school in Rockville to serve as the city's Mayor for a Day in May.

Learn more by visiting [www.mdmunicipal.org](http://www.mdmunicipal.org) and selecting "Mayor's Essay Contest" under "Programs and Services," or call the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations' office at 240-314-8280. ❖

## Homestead Property Tax Credit Available to Homeowners

To help homeowners deal with large assessment increases on their principal residence, state law has established the Homestead Property Tax Credit. The credit limits the increase in taxable assessments each year to 10 percent. In other words, the homeowner pays no property tax on the market value increase on their principal residence above the 10 percent limit.

To prevent improper granting of this credit on rented properties, or multiple

properties owned by one individual, a 2007 state law requires all homeowners to submit a one-time application to establish eligibility. To find if you are eligible for the credit, look up your property at <http://sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty/Pages/default.aspx>.

For an application for eligibility, visit [https://dat.maryland.gov/SDAT%20Forms/Homestead\\_application.pdf](https://dat.maryland.gov/SDAT%20Forms/Homestead_application.pdf). Forms should be submitted by May 1. ❖

## City Manager to Present Proposed Budget to Mayor and Council

### Budget Available Online by Feb. 22; Offer Ideas Online and at Hearings

City Manager Rob DiSpirito will present his proposed Fiscal Year 2020 city budget this month.

The proposed budget, for the fiscal year that begins July 1, will be posted at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) by Friday, Feb. 22. DiSpirito is scheduled to present the proposed budget during the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 25. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

The Mayor and Council will hold a discussion of their budget priorities during their Monday, Feb. 4 meeting, followed by budget hearings and work sessions in March and April. The first of two public hearings on the proposed budget is scheduled for Monday, March 4.

Find agenda materials and video of the hearings, presentations and priorities discussion at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

There is still time for community members to share their budget ideas.

Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) to learn more about the budget process, and to use the city's online survey to choose budget priorities and offer suggestions, including ideas for increasing revenue, reducing or modifying services, decreasing costs, and improving operational efficiencies. Staff will compile the online submissions and periodically submit them for the Mayor and Council's review and consideration.

Rockville's adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year totals \$136.2 million. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the FY 2020 budget on May 6.

For more information, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ❖

### OFFER YOUR IDEAS

- At [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget).
- At public hearings on March 4 and April 1.

### WATCH IT

The Feb. 25 proposed budget presentation and the public hearings will be:

- Carried live on channel 11 on county cable systems.
- Livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).
- Available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

### Upcoming Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar

Feb. 4	Mayor and Council Budget Priorities
Feb. 22	Release of FY 2020 Proposed Budget
Feb. 25	Presentation of FY 2020 Proposed Budget
March 4	Budget Public Hearing
March 18	Budget Work Session
April 1	Budget Public Hearing and Work Session
April 29	Budget Work Session
May 6	Adoption of FY 2020 Budget



**ENDURING HOPE ...** Rockville honored the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 21 with community service and a celebration with a theme of "Enduring Hope, Enduring Progress." Honored during the ceremony were Gideon Wikina (at left), who received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award, and Adam Hoffman (second from left) and Julie Ryan-Silva, (third from right), accepting the F. Michael Taff Award on behalf of Main Street Connect Inc. Also pictured are (L to R): state Sen. Cheryl Kagan, Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Courtney Proctor, chair of the city's Human Rights Commission. Find full coverage of the celebration at [www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville) and all this month on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable).



**FINANCIAL HELP FOR ROCKVILLE SENIORS ...** Rockville seniors 60 and older may be eligible for the Program Assistance Fund and Rockville Call N Ride, subsidized programs for qualifying low-income seniors, to help pay for Rockville Senior Center classes and rides around Montgomery County. Visit the Rockville Senior Center or call 240-314-8810 for an application.



## Meet a Rockville Employee:



### Laura Fawks Lapole

This month, "Rockville Reports" talks to Laura Fawks Lapole, who on Jan. 2 took over as Croydon Creek Nature Center's new assistant supervisor.

#### Tell us about yourself.

I am from Waynesboro, a small town in Pennsylvania nestled at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains. I grew up spending most of my time outdoors and going on adventures with family. I decided to go to Malone University, in Ohio, where I obtained a bachelor's in zoo and wildlife biology. I've worked at a variety of institutions including wildlife rehabilitation centers, zoos and parks. It's been my privilege to work with over 200 species of animals and some amazing professionals in the field. Once I discovered environmental education and interpretation, I knew I'd found my calling. In my spare time, I love to spend time outside, read and work on recording wildlife videos.

#### What will you be doing at Croydon Creek?

As assistant supervisor, I'll be helping things run smoothly at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Every day is

different, so some days I'll be caring for animals, others teaching programs and planning for future activities. I hope to utilize my experience with both animal care and education to help Croydon Creek continue to flourish!

#### What's it like joining the nature center?

I'm so excited to have the opportunity to work at Croydon Creek. It's a wonderful center, tucked back in the Hayes Forest Preserve in Rockville's Civic Center Park. Guests can enjoy several miles of trails while keeping an eye out for wildlife. Inside the center, we have 13 different species of animals, including reptiles, amphibians and an owl. Whether you are coming for a casual visit on a weekday, having a birthday party with special animal guests or attending one of our many programs, there's something here for everyone!

Croydon Creek, at 852 Avery Road, is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. Find out more about the nature center at [www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek) or follow it on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/croydoncreek](https://www.facebook.com/croydoncreek). ❀

## City to Launch Campaign to Fight the Opioid Epidemic

Rockville is preparing to launch a sustained, communitywide effort to fight back against the crisis of opioid overdoses gripping communities across the United States.

The city's awareness campaign will kick off at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre with a program featuring Chris Herren, a former professional basketball player and recovery advocate who founded The Herren Project, a nonprofit serving individuals and families impacted by substance use and the disease of addiction.

A follow-up event on Saturday, March 30 will include a panel discussion of experts on the topic and training on how to respond to an opioid overdose.

Planning for the city's efforts includes elected officials, city staff, physicians and community health leaders, youth and senior representatives – a recognition that it will take an ongoing, communitywide, multi-agency effort to raise awareness and combat the epidemic.

In June, Rockville's Mayor and Council joined state and local jurisdictions in a lawsuit against drug manufacturers and distributors for their role in the crisis. To learn more, visit [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) and search "opioid lawsuit."

Rockville is not immune to the ongoing crisis of opioid overdoses. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services reported 471 incidents from July 2016 through June 2017 in which emergency responders administered Narcan, a rescue drug used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, according to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

Look for more details about the March 7 kickoff and the city's ongoing efforts to fight opioid abuse in "Rockville Reports" and at [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) in the months ahead. ❀



## Rockville Seeks Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

### Feb. 22 is Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Awards

The City of Rockville's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work or study

within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which reviews the materials and recommends awards to the Mayor and Council.

For more information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards), email [environment@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:environment@rockvillemd.gov), or call 240-314-8870. ❀

## Public Hearings to be Held on King Farm Farmstead Report

The Mayor and Council will hold two public hearings on recommendations from the King Farm Task Force for the future of the 7-acre, historic former farmstead at 1101 Grand Champion Drive. The task force was formed to investigate options for rehabilitation, redevelopment and community use of the historic property.

The public hearings will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4 at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27 at the King Farm Community Center, 300 Saddle Ridge Circle.

The King Farm Farmstead comprises eight buildings at the northern edge of the King Farm neighborhood, including the main residence, horse and dairy barns, and outbuildings. The site was designated as a historic district in 2006 and is part of the city's park system.

King Farm Task Force members presented their report to the Mayor and Council on June 4.

To testify at the public hearings, call 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. the day of the hearing or by submitting testimony in writing to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or City Clerk's Office/Director of Council Operations, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Mayor and Council meetings are broadcast live on channel 11 on county cable systems, live streamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11) and available a day after the meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).



## City Academy Offers an Insider Look at Rockville Government

The Rockville City Academy returns this spring with a new opportunity to learn about the City of Rockville.

The free, six-session program begins Wednesday, March 27 with presentations from staff leaders who oversee the city's daily operations.

#### Topics will include:

- Rockville's form of government and the Public Information and Community Engagement Division.
- The Department of Public Works.
- Planning and the master plan process.
- Police and code enforcement, including neighborhood watch.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks, including a tour of city recreation facilities.

The highly interactive program seeks to empower new and existing community leaders to use their talents to participate in and serve their communities and the City of Rockville.

The program will be held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., with the exception of the April 3 session, which will be a visit to the nearby Rockville City Police Department station at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. Find full session dates and times, and register, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/academy](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/academy). Spaces are limited. Participants must be 16 or older and must be able to attend most classes.

For more information, contact Hjarman Cordero at [hcordero@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:hcordero@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8344.

## Save with Energy-Saving Products and Energy Rebates

### Tax-Free Presidents Day Weekend Returns

Homeowners thinking about upgrading an appliance, replacing a water heater, or even changing a light bulb, can do so tax free on Presidents Day weekend.

From Feb. 16-18, purchases of the following energy-efficient Energy Star products are free from Maryland's 6 percent sales tax:

- Air conditioners.
- Washers and dryers.
- Furnaces.
- Heat pumps.
- Boilers.
- Solar water heaters (tax ex-

empt at all times).

- Standard-size refrigerators.
- Dehumidifiers.
- Programmable thermostats.
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Learn more about Energy Star products at [www.energy-star.gov](http://www.energy-star.gov).

Learn more about the tax-free weekend by visiting [www.marylandtaxes.com](http://www.marylandtaxes.com) and searching "Shop Maryland Energy."

In addition, Pepco offers customers rebates

*continued on pg. 8...*



**PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM THE COLD ...** If you see someone in need, call Montgomery County's 24-Hour Crisis Center Hotline at 240-777-4000. Anyone in Montgomery County who is in an emergency situation and needs assistance to stay warm can visit the center at 1301 Piccard Drive in Rockville. The hotline and Crisis Center are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lhs/programindex/crisservicesindex.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lhs/programindex/crisservicesindex.html).



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11**  
[www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)



### Mansion Closed; Alternative Access Available From Avery Road ...

Glenview Mansion is expected to be closed through March to allow for construction of a new Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible parking lot.

While access to the mansion will be closed during construction, visitors can access the tennis courts, Croydon Creek Nature Center and Recreation Services building via Avery Road (off of Baltimore Road). Depending on weather and other factors, the mansion is expected to reopen in April.



### Spring Sports — Now Registering

Youth coach-pitch baseball, T-ball and soccer, and adult basketball, softball, volleyball and soccer are just a few of the sports all ages can take part in this spring.

Registration for spring sports leagues for youth and adults is open. The registration deadline is Thursday, March 7, with a discount for early bird registration by Friday, March 1.

Practices for youth track and field begin at the end of March, with meets beginning in mid-April. Practices for youth soccer, T-ball, and coach-pitch baseball begin in early April, with games beginning mid-April.

Registration deadlines for adult league players and teams are in late March.

Coaches are needed for the spring season. If you're interested in taking part, contact [sports@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:sports@rockvillemd.gov). Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports) for league details and registration information, or call 240-314-8620.

### Peerless Offers Programs on Glenview and Schools During Segregation

Peerless Rockville presents free events in February looking at the history of a city landmark and at Rockville's place in the history of African-American education.

The latest installment of the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series, *Glenview: From Farm to Mansion*, is an illustrated presentation on the history of the property that has become one of Rockville's most romantic sites. Learn about Glenview's transformation from a working 19th century farm to elite summer retreat and the residents who called it home. Hear about the architectural and landscape changes that came to be today's Civic Center. Due to ongoing construction at the mansion, this program will be held from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Rockville's Central Role in the Education of African-Americans, is a Black History Month talk by historian Ralph Buglass and co-sponsored by Friends of the Library, Rockville Memorial Chapter, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

Until the mid-20th century, schools in Rockville — as well as Montgomery County — were segregated. Rockville has played a major part in ever-increasing educational opportunities for African-American students, from a post-Civil War Freedmen's Bureau school in a church basement to the only high school for black students in the county. In between, William B. Gibbs, Jr., a Rockville educator, and his then-little-known attorney, Thurgood Marshall, paved the way for equal pay for black teachers in one of the first legal challenges to segregated schooling. Buglass recounts this important chapter in American history. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/BlackHistoryMonth2019>.

## Rockville Brings the Love for Valentine's Day Month

Bring your loved one to Rockville's community centers this February and share your love for Valentine's Day!

### Annual Heart-to-Heart Family Valentine's Dance

Friday, Feb. 8, 7-9 p.m.  
Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

Enjoy a red-hot night! Families and friends spend time together making Valentine crafts and dancing as a DJ spins favorite tunes. Refreshments sold by Twinbrook Elementary School. The cost is \$4 per person at the door.

### Valentine's Day Late Night

Saturday, Feb. 9, 7-9 p.m. Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Road.

Enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy an evening of their own at Thomas Farm.

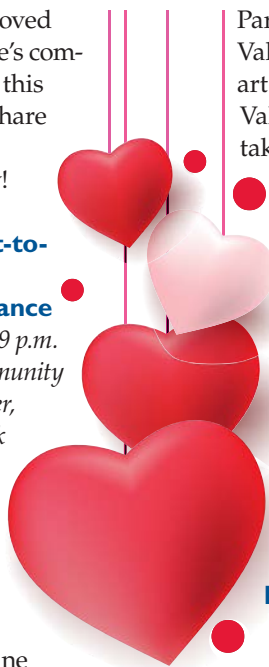
Participants will create a Valentine's Day-themed art project, make a Valentine's snack, and take part in games and other activities.

Concessions will be available for purchase. Register with course #8136 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration). For kindergarten through fifth grade. The cost is \$8 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents.

### Little Hearts Valentines

Sunday, Feb. 10, 1-3 p.m. Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

At this fun-filled Valentine's event, little hearts aged 2-6 will make cards, a bag for their cards, read a book, decorate cookies and more. A small snack will be provided, and adult assistance is required. Pre-register for #7998 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration). The cost is \$12 for residents, \$15 for nonresidents. ✚



## The Benefits of Sponsoring a Special Event

With more than 150,000 people expected to attend Rockville's special events in 2019, sponsorship is a great way for businesses to get the word out and connect with potential customers in the Rockville area.

Significant annual events include the Memorial Day weekend music festival, Hometown Holidays; Lunar New Year; the Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show; and the German-

themed Rocktoberfest.

Sponsors receive promotional opportunities, such as onsite booths, logos on materials, social-media postings and more, depending on level of support.

To see Rockville's annual events and download a sponsorship packet, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/sponsorship](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/sponsorship) or email development and marketing manager Elisabeth Deal at [elisdeal@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:elisdeal@rockvillemd.gov). ✚

## A Murderous Romp with RLT and an Undiscovered King with VLOC This Month at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

Whodunnit and who is it? Questions that will be answered during this February's performances at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

### Rockville Little Theatre presents "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940"

8 p.m. Feb. 1, 2, 8 and 9; 2 p.m. Feb. 3 and 10.

When the creative team of a recent Broadway flop assembles for a backer's audition on a suburban estate, things turn deadly in this comedic romp, which spoofs the great murder mystery movies of the 1940s. By John Bishop, directed by Michael Abendshein.

Tickets cost \$22 for adults, and \$20 for students and seniors aged 62 and older.

### Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "The Gondoliers"

8 p.m. Feb. 22, 23 and March 1 and 2; 2 p.m. Feb. 24 and March 3.

Gilbert & Sullivan's story of two gondoliers who discover that one is actually the king of the far-off land of Baritaria — but they don't know which one. Come to enjoy the fun and music (and figure out the mystery). Tickets for adults are \$28; \$24 for seniors 65 and older; and \$20 for students.

For tickets or more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre), call the box office at 240-314-8690, or email [theatre@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:theatre@rockvillemd.gov). F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. ✚

## 30 Years of Rockets, Robots, Chemistry and Coding

The 30th annual Rockville Science Day offers a chance to experience science hands-on, with science and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demos from over 90 local organizations and businesses.

This Rockville tradition is free and will be held from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, at Montgomery College-Rockville, 51 Mannakee St.

Activities and exhibits include building and launching rockets, telescopes, robots and backyard wildlife, ship models, microscopes, snakes,

stream science, a pigeon release, Civil War medical practice, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action (including flames, explosions and other reactions), electric vehicle demos, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing and brain games.

Student Service Learning hours are available for Montgomery County Public Schools students 16 and older who volunteer before or during the event. Learn more and register to exhibit at <http://rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day/>. ✚

## Get Set for the Suds & Soles 5K

Registration opens Friday, Feb. 1 for the 2019 Suds & Soles 5K.

This year's race, to be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 22, has been selected as the Maryland Road Runners Club of America 5K Championship Race.

The Montgomery County Road Runners Club and the City of Rockville are teaming up again to present

this 5K course on neighborhood roads that begins and ends in Town Center. The post-race party will feature live music by Lloyd Dobbler Effect and the opportunity to sample great beverages from a commemorative mug. A KidZone, for children 9 and under, will feature a kids fun run, children's activities and light refreshments.

*continued on pg. 8...*

**NEW WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!**  
Sign up for weekly email at  
[www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters)



**MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...** Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)): Find out how you can help struggling furloughed federal workers; say farewell to a councilmember who's heading to the Maryland House of Delegates; and Rockville will welcome former professional basketball player and recovery advocate Chris Herren to help the city in the fight against opioid addiction.



# February CALENDAR

**CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.  
**GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.  
**FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

**LP** Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.  
**CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.  
**SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

## FACILITIES LEGEND:

**SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.  
**TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.  
**TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



**1-3, 8-10** “THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940.” Presented by Rockville Little Theatre. Tickets: adults \$22; seniors (62+) and students \$20. Feb. 1, 2, 8 and 9, from 8-10:30 p.m. Feb. 3 and 10 from 2-4:30 p.m. *See article on page 6.* **FSF**

**3** **SCOUT PROGRAM: ANIMAL HABITATS BADGE.** Naturalists will help scouts complete the necessary badge/adventure requirements. All materials provided. Pins/patches are not supplied by the nature center. Rain or shine. Dress for the weather. For more information or to register, call 240-314-8771. \$14 R/\$16 NR. 2-4 p.m. **CC**

**6** **USING HYPNOSIS/SELF-HYPNOSIS FOR PAIN AND WELLBEING.** Learn to use your mind in new ways, to control pain, relax, sleep better, handle stress, worry less, and live with a happy heart, peaceful mind and playful spirit. Register for course #7414. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. *See article on page 8.* **SR**

**8** **ANNUAL HEART-TO-HEART FAMILY VALENTINE’S DANCE.** Families and friends spend time together making Valentine crafts and dancing as a DJ spins favorite tunes. \$4 per person at the door. 7-9 p.m. *See article on page 6.* **TC**

**9** **LEAVING A LEGACY: ESTATE PLANNING AND CHARITABLE GIVING.** Learn how to support favorite nonprofits through estate planning. Local financial and estate planners will offer techniques to plan for heirs and support causes and charities in ways that maximize your gift, minimize tax and fulfill your wishes. Seating is limited. Free. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/Estates-Giving2019>. 9:30-11 a.m. Peerless Rockville, 29 Court-house Square.

**9** **NATURE TOTS: OWLS.** Discover the wonders of nature with your child as a naturalist helps you delve into a nature topic through play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. For ages 2-5. Register for course #8027. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

**9** **VALENTINE’S DAY LATE NIGHT.** Enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy an evening of their own, creating a Valentine’s Day-themed art project, making a Valentine snack and participating in games and other activities. Concessions will be sold. Register for course #8136. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 7-9 p.m. *See article on page 6.* **TF**

**10** **LITTLE HEARTS VALENTINES.** Little hearts aged 2-6 will make cards, a bag for their cards, read a book, decorate cookies and more. Small snack provided. Adult assistance required. Register for course #7998. \$12 R/\$15 NR. 1-3 p.m. *See article on page 6.* **LP**

**14** **GLENVIEW: FROM FARM TO MANSION.** Part of the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series. Learn about Glenview’s transformation from a working 19th-century farm to an elite summer retreat, the residents who called it home, and the architectural and landscape changes that came to be today’s Rockville Civic Center. 7-9 p.m. Free. *See article on page 6.* **FSF**

**16** **LITTLE ACORNS: MARVELOUS MAMMALS.** Children aged 18-36 months explore nature through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #8032. \$7 R/\$9 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

**16** **LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION.** The City of Rockville, in partnership with the city’s Asian Pacific American Task Force, hosts an annual Lunar New Year celebration, bringing the community together to celebrate Rockville’s Asian cultures. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free. *See article on page 1.* Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

**16-18** **BUY ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS TAX FREE.** *See article on page 5.*

**18** **PRESIDENTS DAY.** City Hall and some city facilities closed. *See article on page 1.*

**21** **NATURE TOTS: FOXES.** Discover the wonders of nature with your child as a naturalist helps you delve into a nature topic through play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. For ages 2-5. Register for course #8028. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

**21** **HEART HEALTHY PRESENTATION AND BINGO.** Celebrate Heart Health Month with a presentation on how to take care of your heart and the hearts of your loved ones. Stay for Heart Healthy Bingo and blood pressure screenings. Register for course #9354. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. *See article on page 8.* **SR**

**22-24** “THE GONDOLIERS” Presented by Victorian Lyric Opera Company. Gilbert & Sullivan’s story of two gondoliers who discover that one is actually the king of the far-off land of Baritaria – but they don’t know which one. Tickets: adults \$28; seniors (65+) \$24; students \$20. Feb. 22 and 23 from 8-10:30 p.m. Feb. 24 from 2-4 p.m. *See article on page 6.* **FSF**

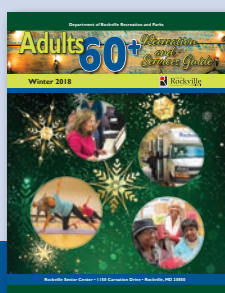
**23** **LANTERN FESTIVAL.** Celebrate the end of Lunar New Year with cultural performances, food, interactive lantern craft activities and cultural displays. This family and kid-friendly event is organized by the Rockville Sister City Corporation in partnership with WQER-LP 96.7 FM Radio. For more information call 240-314-5029 or visit [RockvilleSisterCities.org](http://RockvilleSisterCities.org). Free. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **FSF**

**23** **NATURE LAB.** Kids ages 9-11 will explore nature inside and out with engaging hands-on and minds-on experiments and adventures. Time will be spent indoors and outdoors. Dress for the weather. Register for course #8038. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 3-4:30 p.m. **CC**

**24** **OUTDOOR SCIENCE CLUB: MAMMAL ECOLOGY.** Scientists, ages 6-8, investigate a variety of science topics through hands-on activities and time spent exploring the forest preserve. Register for course #8036. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 1:30-3 p.m. **CC**

**24** **ROCKVILLE’S CENTRAL ROLE IN THE EDUCATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS.** A Black History Month talk co-sponsored by Friends of the Library, Rockville Memorial Chapter. Historian Ralph Buglass discusses how Rockville has played a major part in educating African-American students, from a post-Civil War Freedmen’s Bureau school, to the only high school for black students in the county, to one of the first legal challenges to segregated schooling, led by a Rockville teacher and his then-little-known attorney, Thurgood Marshall. Free. 2 p.m. *See article on page 6.* Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

**28** **LIFESTYLE MEDICINE: A NEW APPROACH.** Dr. Aruna Nathan discusses how to apply lifestyle medicine principles to prevent and manage chronic conditions. Register for course #8020. Free. 1-2 p.m. *See article on page 8.* **SR**



**Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Sign up at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration). Enter the course number listed on the calendar entry to see more details and register.**



R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

**FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: [WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX)**

## Furlough Assistance

*continued from pg. 1...*

Rockville Senior Center (1150 Carnation Drive); and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center (355 Martins Lane).

For a comprehensive list of non-profits that provide community services for housing, youth, basic services and more in the City of Rockville, see our

caregivers guide. Visit [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com), click on “Print Edition Archives” in the righthand column, then “Nov. 2018 Caregivers Insert.”

## Financial Assistance is Available From the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund

A limited amount of scholarship money is available for recreation pro-

gram fees to Rockville residents 18 and younger. Financial assistance must be applied for in-person at the time of registration. Limited financial assistance is available for Rockville residents, ages 19 and older, based on income. Call 240-314-8620 for an appointment.

For more information, see page 54 of the winter 2018-19 “Life in Rockville”

recreation activity guide at [www.rockvillemd.gov/life](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/life).

## Spend Time Volunteering

For those who may not be struggling financially, but who want to help out, Rockville has dozens of volunteer opportunities available. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer) for more information. ✚



## Senior Center Undergoes Renovations

Renovations are currently underway in many areas of the Rockville Senior Center to bring the building more closely into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Renovations include the front entrance foyer, offices, Carnation Room stage, back bathrooms, main bathrooms and dining room breakfast bar. Many of the center's doors will be widened to the appropriate width and light switches adjusted to the appropriate height.

The front entrance is closed, so visitors and members should use side or back parking lot entrances. Renovations are expected to be completed in June 2019.

For more information, call the center at 240-314-8800 or email [seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov).

## Certified Instructor? The Swim and Fitness Center is Hiring!

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is hiring part-time fitness instructors to teach classes this winter.

Instructors are sought for yoga, kickboxing and Bootcamp. Ideal candidates will have availability either early mornings, weekday evenings or Saturday mornings. Instructors work about 3-4 hours a week.

An additional perk offered to Rockville Swim and Fitness Center employees is free use of the facility for the employee and a guest. The center also offers staff training in CPR, first aid, lifeguarding and, on occasion, specialty courses at a significant discount.

Qualified candidates should go to [www.rockvillemd.gov/careers](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/careers) to apply. Certification is required.

Find out about Rockville Swim and Fitness Center pool schedules, seasonal hours, personal training opportunities and more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter).

## Suds and Soles Registration Opens

*continued from pg. 6...*

The race is open to adults, youth and children, and, new this year, features a tiered pricing structure offering limited slots at reduced prices. Register early and save. To learn more about the race – including sponsorship opportunities, and get registered, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles).

Proceeds benefit the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc.'s Rockville Recreation Fund and MCRRC's youth and beginning running programs. Learn more about the Rockville Recreation Fund at [www.rrpf.org](http://www.rrpf.org). ❖

## Maryland Tax-Free Weekend

*continued from pg. 5...*

on Energy Star appliances. Learn more at <http://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/appliance-rebate-program>.

Washington Gas also offers residential and commercial rebates, including, for residential customers, rebates on furnaces, gas clothes dryers and standard or tankless water heaters. Learn more at <http://washingtongas.com/rebates>. Energy assistance may be available for customers having trouble paying their utility bills. Visit [bit.ly/utilityassistance](http://bit.ly/utilityassistance).

Find more energy-saving tips at [www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/education/winter-preparedness](http://www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/education/winter-preparedness). ❖



## Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at [rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8102.

## Plans for Improved Rockville Skate Park Move Ahead

A new and improved skate park for the City of Rockville took a step forward in January with the Mayor and Council's unanimous approval of a bid award for design and construction.

The new, 15,000-square-foot concrete skate venue would replace the city's wood and steel park behind the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, at 355 Martins Lane, which is showing signs of deterioration after close to two decades in operation, despite numerous repairs over the years.

The bid contract was awarded to Spohn Ranch, Inc. of Los Angeles, California, which has

designed and built skate parks in Prince George's and Howard counties in Maryland; Fairfax County, Virginia; Ocean City, New Jersey; West Virginia; California; and in other areas of the U.S.

Features at the new park, construction of which is anticipated to take 10 months, would include an entrance building, lighting, landscaping, and parking and access road improvements.

For more details on the current skate park, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/skatepark](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/skatepark). For updates on the construction, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/1966](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/1966). ❖

### International Night Celebration

*Join your neighbors for an evening of multicultural fun and entertainment.*

Friday, March 22 • 6-8:30 p.m. • F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre  
603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20851. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)  
FREE event with limited seating.



**City of Rockville**  
Get Into It

[WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/INTERNATIONALLNIGHT](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/INTERNATIONALLNIGHT)

## Community Police Academies Offer Hands-On Experience

Community members can learn what it takes to be a police officer through the Rockville Community Police Academy or a special course aimed at 60-plus residents.

The Rockville City Police Department is accepting applications for the free, 8- to 10-week Rockville Community Police Academy, in March, April and May at a time and place to be determined. Participants 18 and older will learn about all aspects of the department, receive hands-on training and earn a graduation certificate on course comple-

tion. For more information and registration, email Cpl. Ken Matney at [kmatney@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:kmatney@rockvillemd.gov).

RCPD is also offering a free course highlighting safety for the 60-plus population and exploring code enforcement, the K-9 unit and forensic science. Participants will also tour the police station. Classes meet from 10:30 a.m.-noon on Wednesdays, March 20-April 24, in the Azalea Room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Register for course #8185 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration).

## Register Now for Summer Fun!

Summer is packed with fun for kids in Rockville and registration is now open for the city's summer programs!

Find out all about what Rockville has in store for kids and teens in the "Summer Camps Guide 2019," which is available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/life](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/life), and in print at city facilities and Rockville libraries.

**Summer Blast**, Rockville's affordable, flexible all-day camp returns to four locations with swimming, field trips, arts, crafts, games and special events. Participants can register by the week or for the whole summer. Summer Blast provides full-day care, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. June 17-Aug. 23.

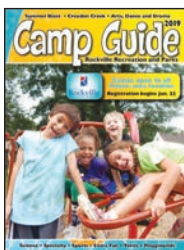
Additional camp opportunities include: **Tiny**

**Chefs Cooking, Mad Science, Deilab Coding Camp, Lego Invention,**

**Robotics, Hip Hop, Dramatic Kids, Abakadoodle and Way Off Broadway.** Camps are for kids age 3-16.

The summer will also be packed with things to do for kids aged 6-12 who take part in Rockville's Summer Playgrounds program. Various locations are set up at schools and parks in city neighborhoods, where children can meet new friends, and take part in sports and games, crafts and fun water activities.

Register early at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration) to take advantage of a convenient plan that allows payment for summer programs in four installments. ❖



## Mind, Lifestyle, Heart Health and Bingo at the Senior Center

Use your mind for better living, find out about lifestyle medicine and play a round of bingo after you learn how to keep your heart healthy, in February at the Rockville Senior Center.


**Using Hypnosis/Self Hypnosis for Pain and Well-being.** At this free class, explore the use of hypnosis and self-hypnosis to improve your life. Learn to use your mind in new ways: to control pain, relax, sleep better, handle stress, worry less, and live with a happy heart, peaceful mind and playful spirit. Presented by certified hypnotherapist Donald Pelles from 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6. Register with course #7414.

**Lifestyle Medicine: A New Approach.** Lifestyle medicine is an evidence-based practice that offers a fresh approach to improving outcomes related to chronic conditions. It helps individuals and families adopt and sustain healthy behaviors that affect health and quality

of life. Internist Dr. Aruna Nathan focuses on how to apply lifestyle medicine principles to prevent and manage chronic conditions at this free presentation, from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28. Register with course #8020.

**Heart Healthy Presentation, Bingo and More!** February is Heart Healthy Month! From 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, learn to take care of your heart and the hearts of your loved ones; stay after the presentation by Adventist HealthCare to play heart-healthy bingo with an opportunity to win prizes. Blood pressure screenings will also be provided at this free event. Register with course #9354.

Register for classes at the senior center information desk, by calling 240-314-8810, or with the course number at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration). ❖



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**BACK IN THE DAY ...** Rockville leaped into digital waters, according to the February 1996 edition of "Rockville Reports," with a new "digital bulletin board" that anyone with a "personal computer and a modem" could access by calling one of two free phone numbers. The "BBS," to use the lingo of the time, allowed users access to contact information, schedules and a way to "send messages or 'upload' letters or statements."